

# NIGHTCRAWLER®



MARVEL

CLAREMONT  
BENNETT  
NAUCK  
ROSENBERG

007

PREVIOUSLY IN...

# NIGHTCRAWLER

RECENTLY RETURNING FROM THE AFTERLIFE, NIGHTCRAWLER HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIS PLACE IN A WORLD FAR DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE HE LEFT BEHIND. BUT SINCE HIS RESURRECTION, NIGHTCRAWLER HAS, IN QUICK SUCCESSION, LOST HIS OPPORTUNITY FOR ETERNAL LIFE AND HIS FIRST LOVE. SHAKEN BY THESE TRAGEDIES, KURT NOWS FINDS HIMSELF REELING FROM ANOTHER: THE DEATH OF WOLVERINE.

MARGUERITE BENNETT  
PLOT

CHRIS CLAREMONT  
SCRIPT

TODD NAUCK  
ARTIST

RACHELLE ROSENBERG  
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CORY PETIT  
LETTERER

JAMIE MCKELVIE  
COVER ARTIST

XANDER JAROWEY  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DANIEL KETCHUM  
EDITOR

MIKE MARTS  
X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA  
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY  
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

THE JEAN GREY  
SCHOOL IS VERY  
QUIET TONIGHT.



THE  
CLASSROOMS  
ARE EMPTY.

THE HALLS, SILENT  
BUT FOR THE  
SOUNDS OF NATURE.

WE WON'T BE  
TEACHING AGAIN FOR  
THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

WE ARE IN  
MOURNING.

YOU SEE, WE  
DIDN'T START  
AS TEACHERS.

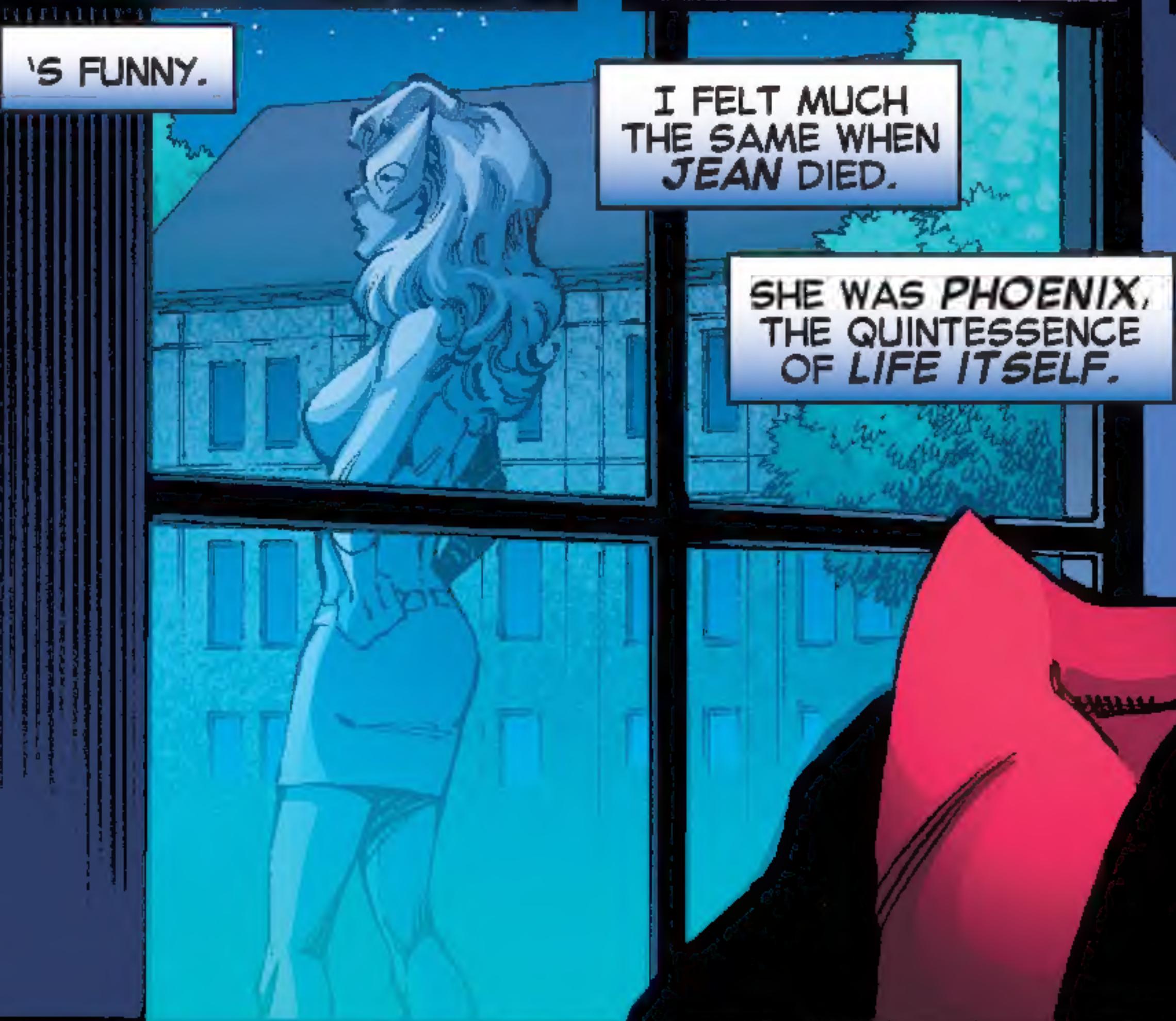
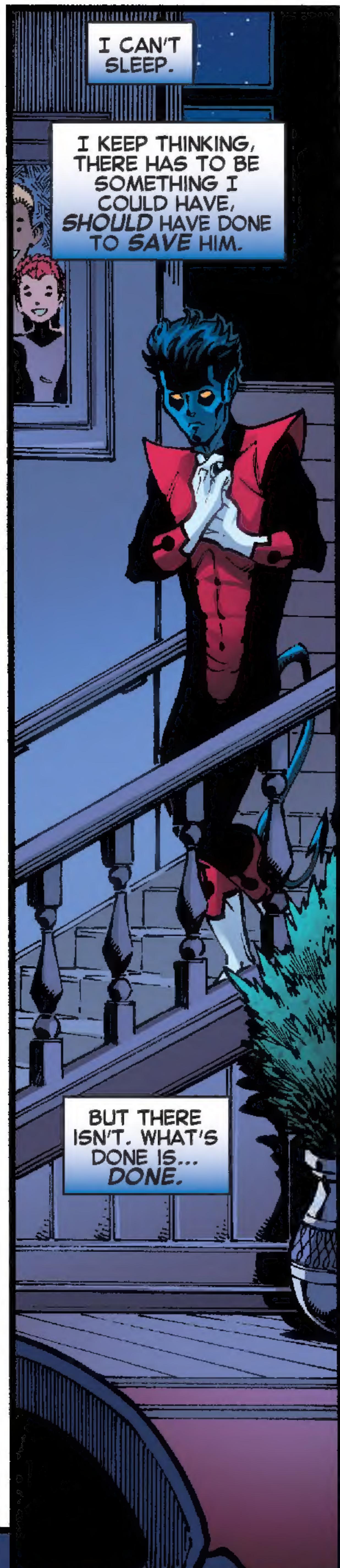
WE ARE SUPER  
HEROES, WE ARE  
THE X-MEN.

OUR STOCK IN TRADE  
IS SAVING THE WORLD,  
AND OCCASIONALLY  
ALL CREATION.

UNFORTUNATELY,  
THAT JOB COMES  
WITH A PRICE--

--THAT TOO MANY  
OF US OVER THE YEARS  
HAVE HAD TO PAY.





## NEPAL.

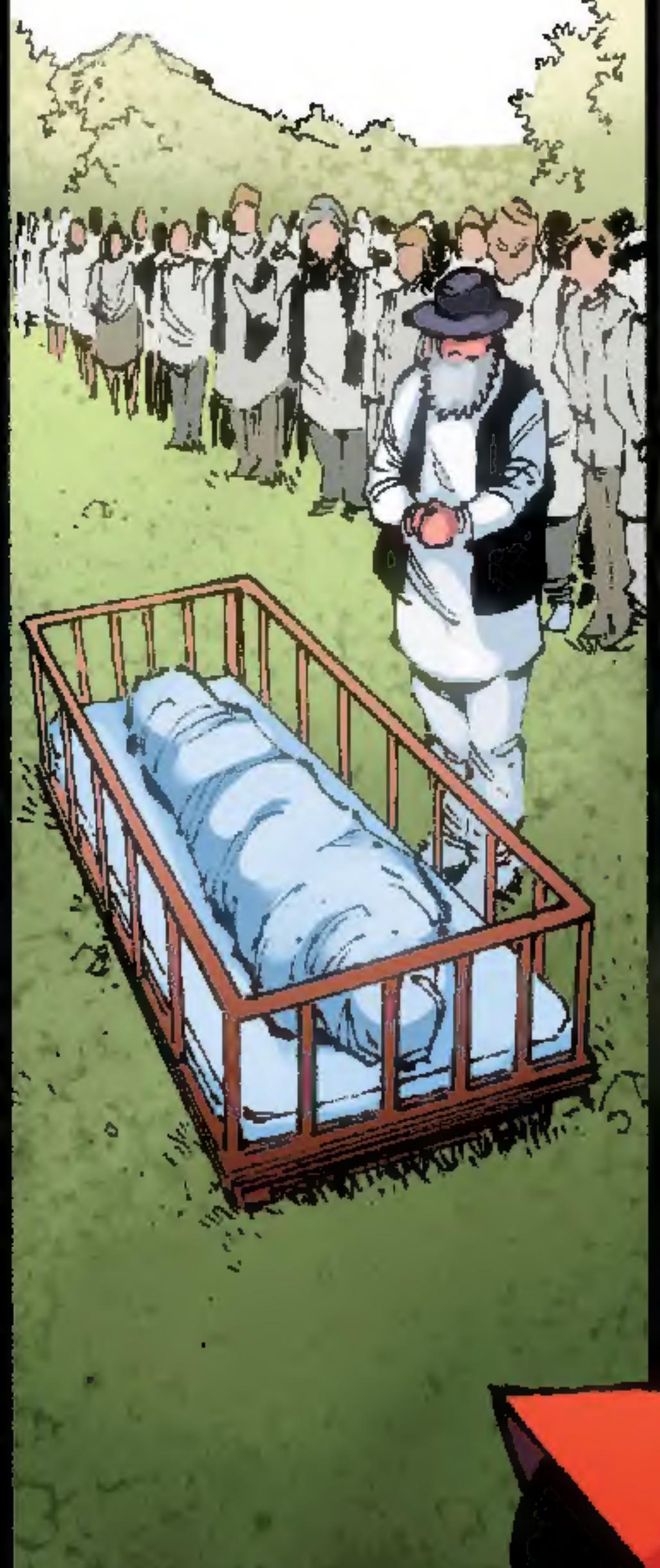
IN OUR GRIEF,  
WE ALWAYS  
SEEM TO BUILD.

WE BUILD  
PYRES.



## INDONESIA.

WE BUILD  
GRAVES.



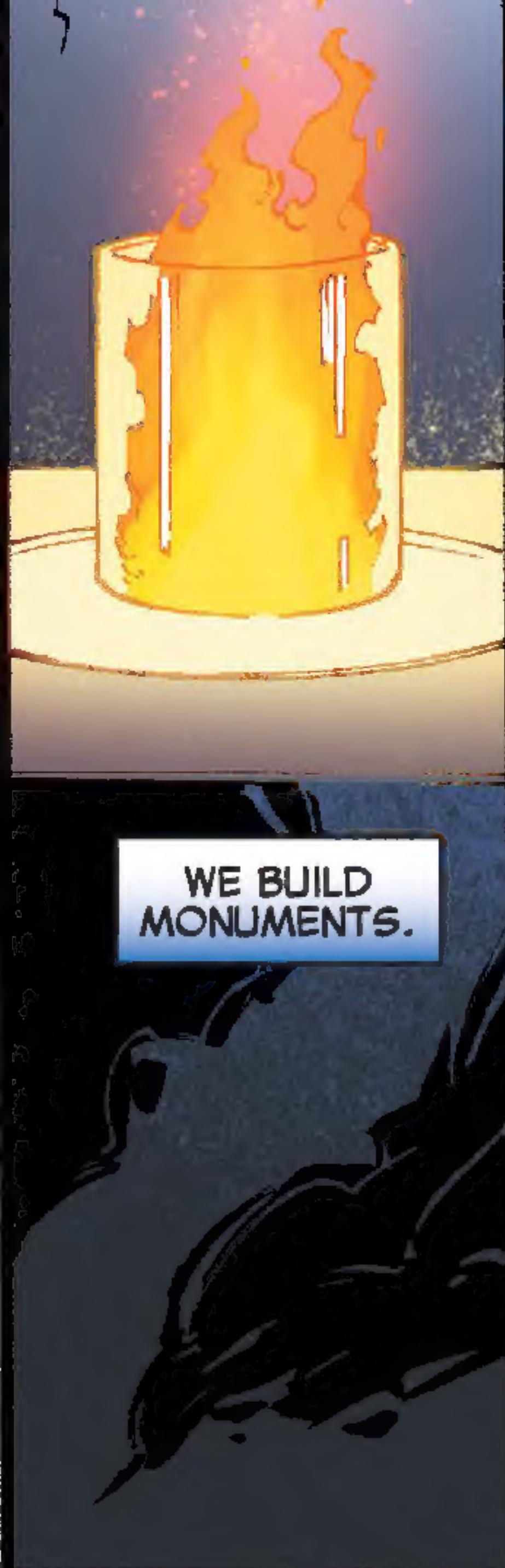
## CHINA.

WE BUILD  
TOMBS.



## THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM, WASHINGTON D.C.

WE BUILD  
MONUMENTS.



## EGYPT.

WE BUILD  
MAUSOLEUMS.

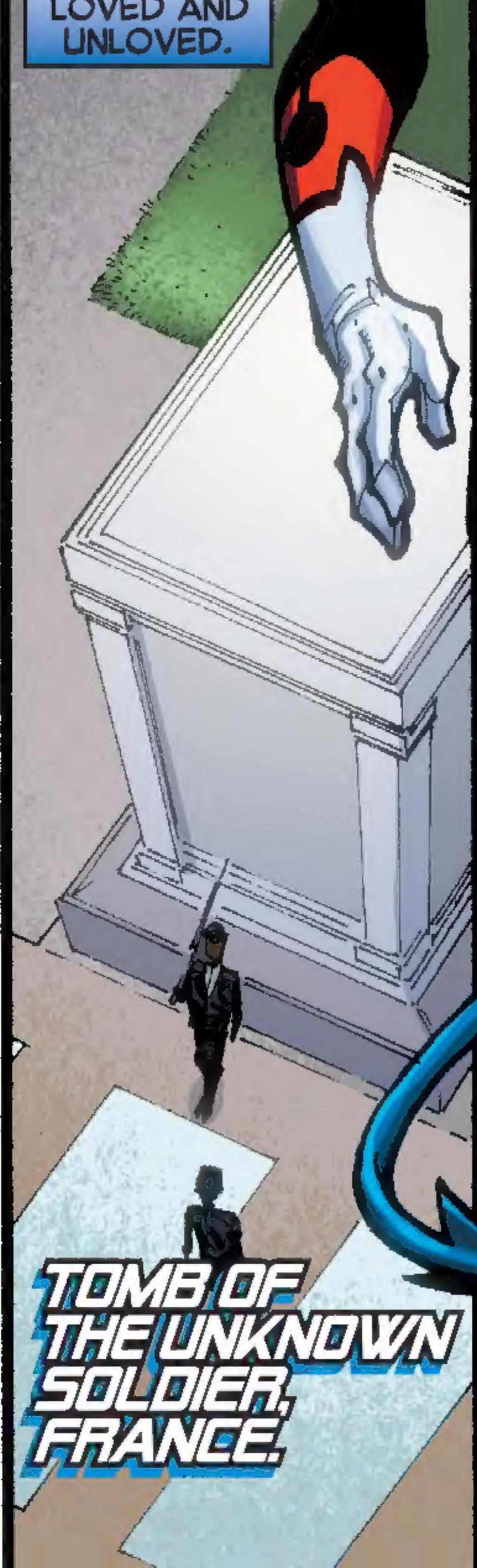


## INDIA.

WE BUILD  
PALACES.



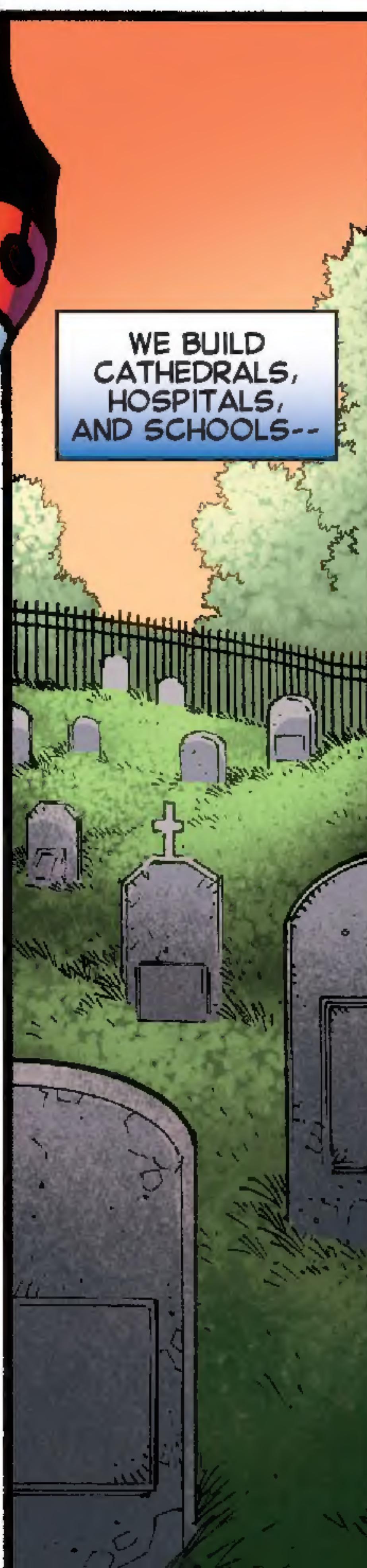
WE BUILD  
HOUSES  
FOR THE  
DEAD,  
KNOWN AND  
UNKNOWN,  
LOVED AND  
UNLOVED.



TOMB OF  
THE UNKNOWN  
SOLDIER,  
FRANCE.



WE BUILD  
CATHEDRALS,  
HOSPITALS,  
AND SCHOOLS--



--LIKE THE VERY  
SCHOOL I AM  
STANDING IN NOW.



THE DANGER  
ROOM'S  
HOLOGRAPHIC  
TECHNOLOGY  
CAN BRING  
ANY REALITY  
IMAGINABLE  
TO LIFE--

--EVEN THE WOLVERINE.

'BOUT TIME YOU SHOWED, ELF.

Y'ALMOST MISSED THE FUN!

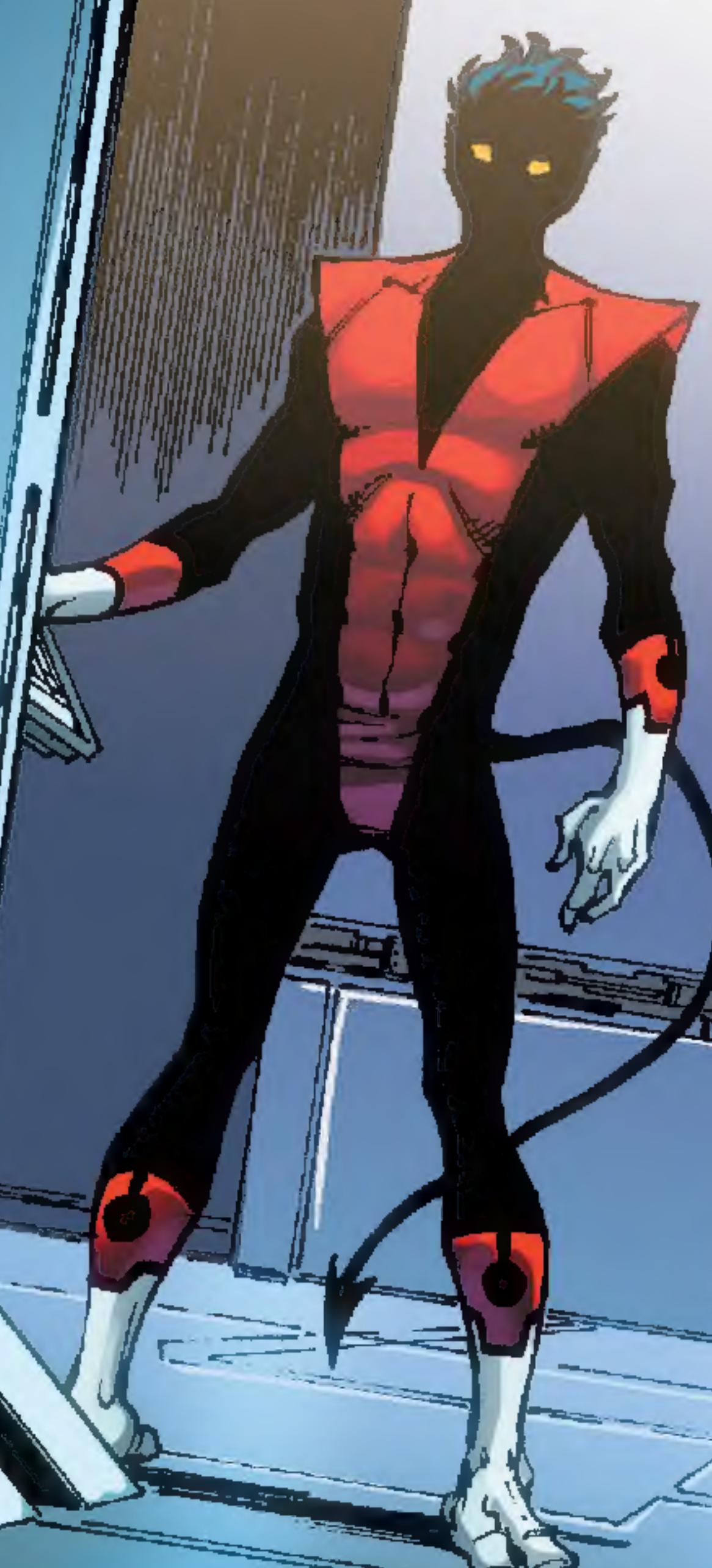
LOGAN RISKED EVERYTHING TO HELP BRING ME BACK FROM THE AFTERLIFE, AS IF HE KNEW OUR STORY WASN'T COMPLETE.

I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE MORE TIME TOGETHER.

DID HE KNOW HIS HAD ALL BUT RUN OUT?

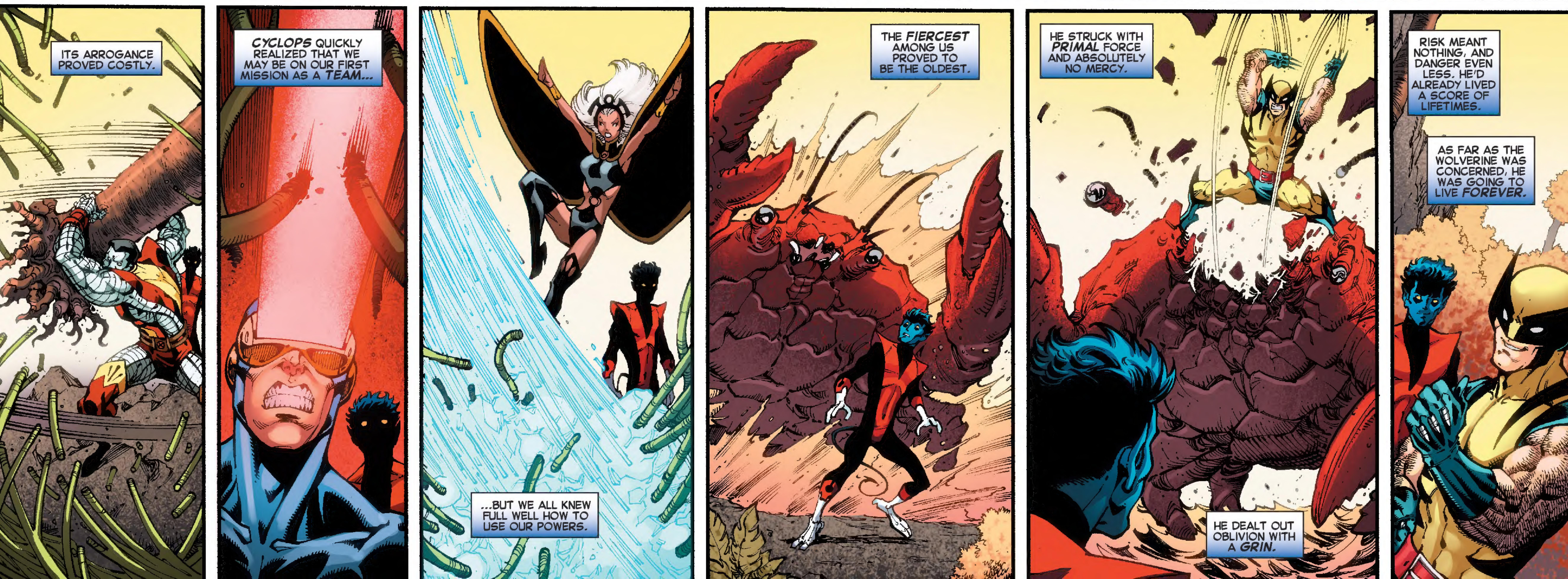
DID HE EVEN CARE?

THE DANGER ROOM IS CULLING THESE SCENES FROM ITS RECORD OF MY MEMORIES.



THIS IS LOGAN AS I BEST REMEMBER HIM, LITERALLY A PRIMAL FORCE FOR LIFE.

YET, LOOKING AT HIM NOW, HEARING HIS VOICE, I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE.



IN JEAN GREY, LOGAN FOUND THE WOMAN OF HIS DREAMS.

HER HEART WAS ALREADY PLEDGED TO SCOTT SUMMERS BUT LOGAN DIDN'T CARE.

SHE BONDED WITH A PRIMAL FORCE OF EXISTENCE--

--THE GIVER AND TAKER OF LIFE, ON A COSMIC SCALE.

SHE WAS HUNGRY AND CONSUMED A STAR.

KILLING SIX BILLION D'BARI ON THAT STAR'S INHABITED PLANET DID NOTHING TO SATIATE THE PHOENIX.

HE WAS A CREATURE OF INSTINCT AND THOSE INSTINCTS HAD NEVER PLAYED HIM FALSE.

BUT THEN, SHE BECAME PHOENIX.

WE FOUGHT TO SAVE HER, AND FIND A WAY TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

BUT IN THE END, JEAN KNEW HER STORY COULD HAVE BUT ONE ENDING.

FACING THE ULTIMATE TEMPTATION, SHE SAID "NO!"

JEAN WAS THE BEST OF US.

THE LOSS WAS ALMOST MORE THAN LOGAN COULD BEAR.

YOU'VE DRUNK ENOUGH, MY FRIEND.

NOT HARDLY--  
--WHEN MY FLAMIN' HEALING FACTOR KEEPS MAKIN' ME SOBER.

LOGAN,  
PLEASE LET ME HELP!

MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS, WAGNER--

--AN' LEMME GRIEVE IN PEACE!

SLAM!

HE WAS A  
HARDER MAN  
AFTER THAT...

...DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE  
NO MORE OF HIS TEAMMATES  
WOULD DIE ON HIS WATCH.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER,  
YOUNG KITTY PRYDE,  
BECAME THE FOCUS  
OF HIS EFFORTS.

IT WAS DURING OUR  
BATTLE WITH THE  
MARAUDERS THAT HE  
ALMOST LOST US BOTH.



I WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY RIPTIDE.

NIGHTCRAWLER!

'PORT OUTTA THERE-- NOW!



LOGAN'S WARNING CAME TOO LATE.

BEFORE I COULD TELEPORT TO SAFETY, RIPTIDE PEPPERED ME WITH SCORES OF RAZOR-EDGED PROJECTILES.

KURT!

OH, STORM--! HE'S CUT ALL OVER-- THERE'S SO MUCH BLOOD--!



I FEEL A PULSE. WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE HIM!

FIND ME A CLOTH--SOMETHING, ANYTHING--TO USE AS TEMPORARY BANDAGES!

I WAS BUT ONE OF MANY CASUALTIES, AMONG X-MEN AND MORLOCKS BOTH.

AMONG THEM WAS KITTY, WOUNDED PROTECTING ROGUE FROM ANOTHER MARAUDER, HARPOON.

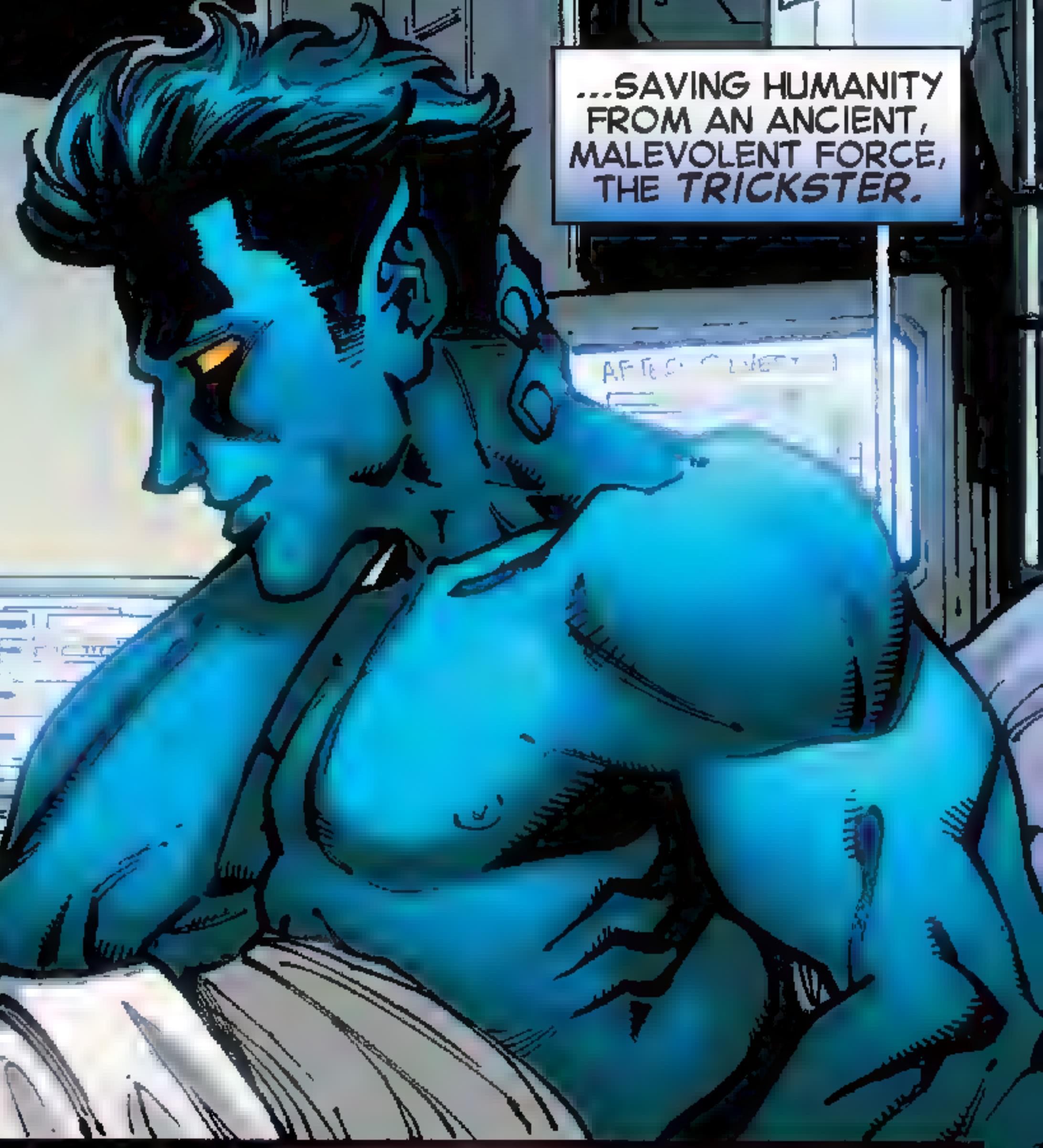
I FELL INTO A COMA, WHILE KITTY LOST CONTROL OF HER PHASING POWER, FADING ALMOST TO THE POINT OF EXTINCTION.



WHEN I AWOKE IN MOIRA MACTAGGART'S RESEARCH FACILITY ON MUIR ISLAND, OFF THE NORTHERN COAST OF SCOTLAND...

...IT WAS TO LEARN THAT THE X-MEN HAD ALL BEEN LOST...

...SAVING HUMANITY FROM AN ANCIENT, MALEVOLENT FORCE, THE TRICKSTER.



IN A HEART-STROKE,  
OUR WORLD HAD CHANGED.

OUR FRIENDS  
WERE GONE.

CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL--  
AND THE TEAM OF NEW MUTANTS--  
WERE UNDER THE CARE AND TUTELAGE  
OF HIS BEST FRIEND, OUR TEAM'S  
GREATEST ADVERSARY, MAGNETO.

KITTY  
AND I HAD LOST  
EVERYTHING.

SO WE DID WHAT  
X-MEN ALWAYS SEEM  
TO DO IN SUCH TIMES...

...WE  
STARTED  
AGAIN.

NEW LAND,  
NEW BEGINNING,  
NEW TEAM--

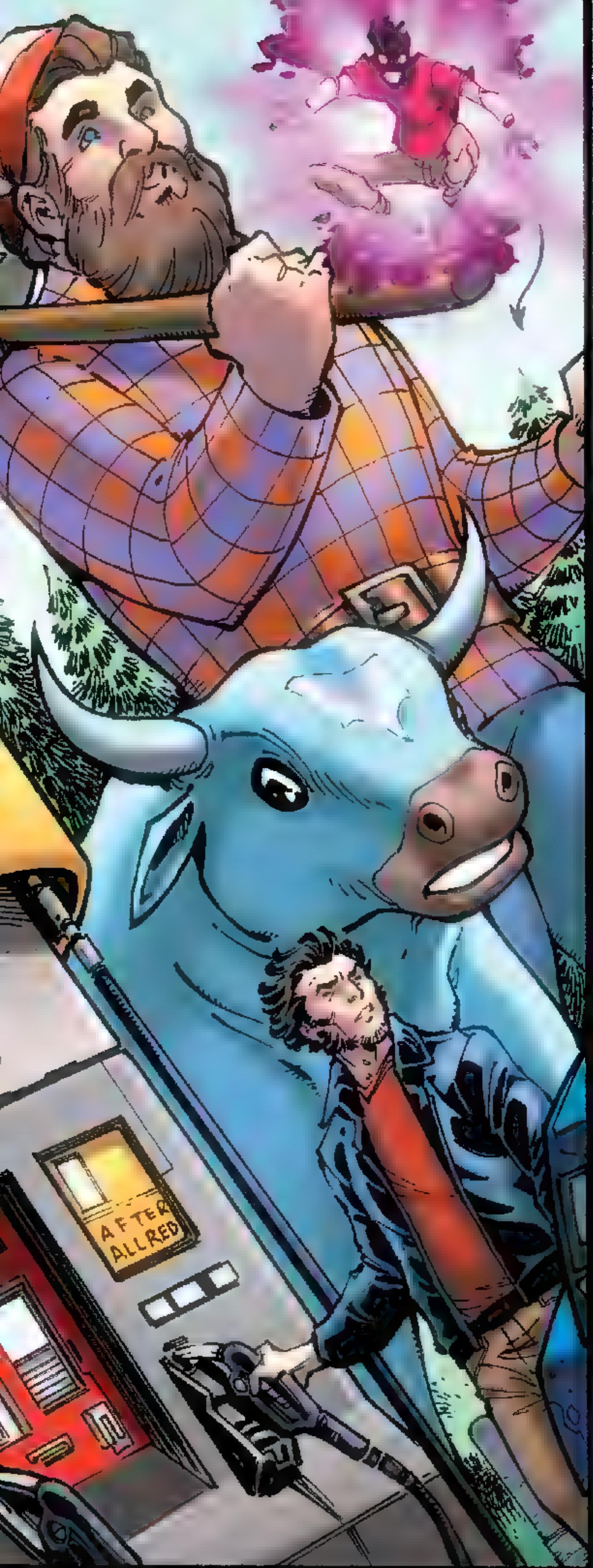
--EXCALIBUR!



OF COURSE, THE X-MEN  
WERE NOT DEAD.

AND IN GOOD TIME,  
BEST FRIENDS WERE  
REUNITED.

TOGETHER, LOGAN  
AND I TRAVELED THE  
WORLD...



...AND FOUGHT BESIDE OUR  
TEAM AGAINST BASTION.

THAT WAS WHERE  
MY LUCK RAN OUT.



I MANAGED TO  
TELEPORT HOPE  
TO SAFETY...

...BUT MY WOUND  
WAS MORTAL.



I'M AN X-MAN,  
I SHOULD HAVE  
KNOWN BETTER.

I FOUND MYSELF  
IN HEAVEN.

ALL I BELIEVED--  
THE BEST OF MY  
FAITH--WAS PROVED  
TO BE REAL.

BUT TRY AS  
I MIGHT, I  
FOUND I COULD  
NOT ACCEPT  
THAT REALITY.

I WASN'T SURPRISED  
WHEN THE X-MEN  
FOLLOWED ME.

WHEN THE MOMENT  
CAME FOR ME TO  
CHOOSE, I TURNED MY  
BACK ON HEAVEN...

...AND RETURNED  
WITH MY FRIENDS  
TO OUR WORLD,  
AND TO LIFE.



NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, LOGAN AND I WENT FOR A WALK THROUGH SALEM CENTER, VISITING OUR CLASSIC HAUNTS FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE.

I WASN'T YET COMFORTABLE IN MY BODY--EMOTIONALLY OR PHYSICALLY--



--SO I USED MY IMAGE INDUCER TO PRESENT A "NORMAL" FACE TO THE WORLD.

LOGAN, OF COURSE, HAD OTHER IDEAS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



GIMME A BREAK, ELF--WE BEEN DOIN' THIS, WITHOUT THAT TOY, FOR YEARS!

WHY THE COLD FEET NOW?

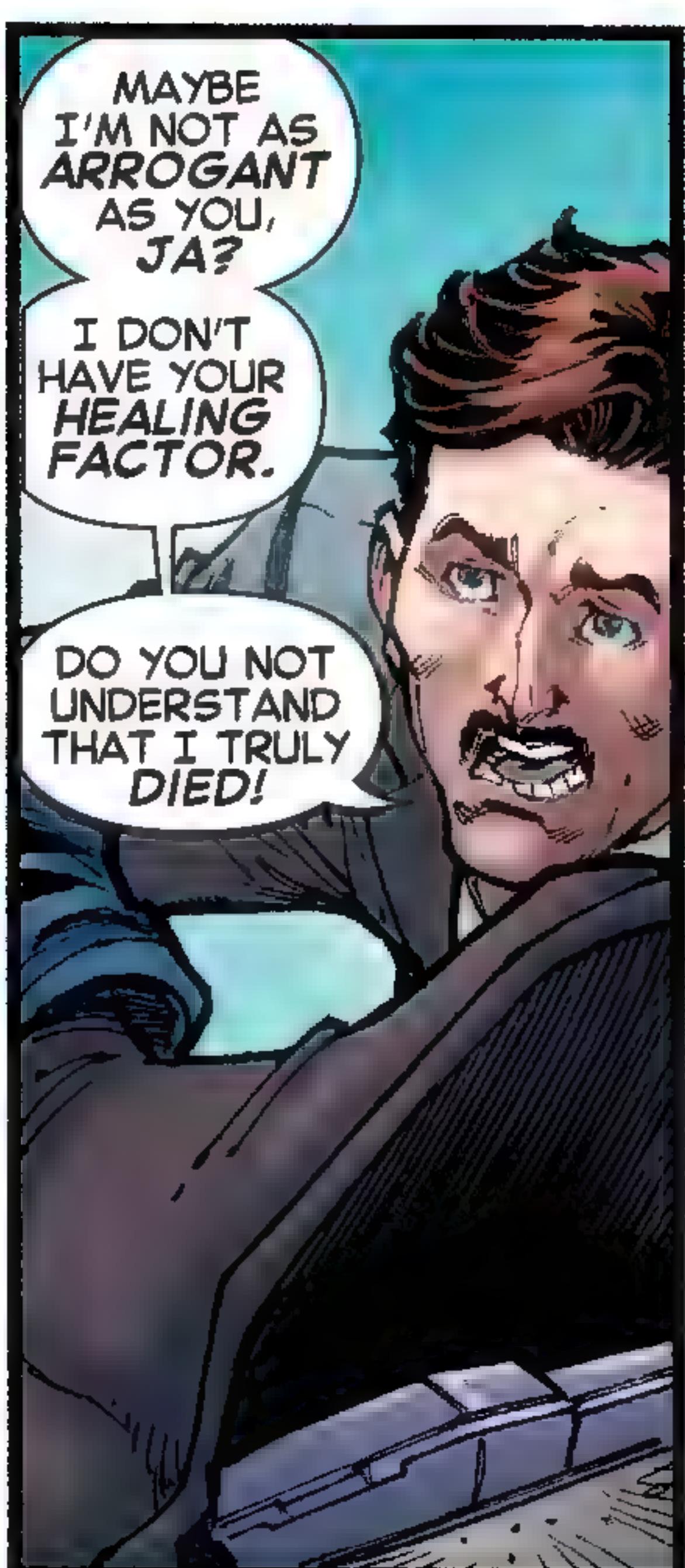
MAYBE I'M NOT AS ARROGANT AS YOU, JA?

I DON'T HAVE YOUR HEALING FACTOR.

DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT I TRULY DIED!

GET OVER IT.  
BECAUSE NOW, MY FRIEND, YOU'RE ALIVE.

EMBRACE THE MAN YOU ARE.  
AND THE WORLD YOU LIVE IN.



YOU'VE MADE THIS TOWN YOUR HOME.

AND ITS PEOPLE, YOUR FRIENDS.

SHOW AS MUCH FAITH IN THEM AS YOU DO IN YOUR GOD.

JUST LIKE HIM, I BET THEY'LL SURPRISE YOU.

AND HE WAS RIGHT.





ONLY ONE ELEMENT IS MISSING.

THE CENTERPIECE OF THIS CELEBRATION.



THE COMPUTER HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB...

...BRINGING HIS FRIENDS TO LIFE.



WHY WON'T IT DO THE SAME FOR HIM?

WHY CAN'T WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE?

DO HIM THE HONOR HE HAS SO RICHLY EARNED?



THERE-- AT THE DOORWAY!

OPEN THE DOOR, LOGAN--



--SO YOUR PARTY CAN TRULY BEGIN!

BUT...

THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED, IS IT?





THE WOLVERINE  
TOUCHED SO  
MANY SOULS.

HE MADE MISTAKES  
AND TRIED HIS BEST  
TO SET THEM RIGHT.

HE FOUGHT FOR HIS  
FRIENDS AND TRIED HIS  
BEST TO MAKE THEIR  
WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

HE NEVER GAVE  
UP, AND NEVER  
BACKED DOWN.



IF YOU  
BROUGHT ME  
BACK TO LIFE  
FOR NO OTHER  
REASON,  
LORD...

...I PRAY  
IT IS TO PROVE  
MYSELF EQUAL  
TO THAT  
CHALLENGE.

LOGAN  
DESERVES  
NO LESS. HE  
WAS MY  
FRIEND.



